GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1424
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2001
SOCIAL AUDIT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have authorised all the Gram Sabhas to conduct social audits of all rural development programmes within their area of jurisdiction;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the training likely to be given to Gram Sabhas to make a realistic and faction-free social audit of works;

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to devise and implement a safe scheme of social audit for all the Gram Sabhas;

(d) the details of such plans and the time by which these are likely to be implemented;

(e) whether the Government propose to emphasise on transparency in the implementation of rural development schemes and the financial allotment for such programmes; and

(f) if so, the manner in which the Gram Sabhas or Panchayats are likely to be involved in such exercise to enhance transparency?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a): Yes, Sir. The State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to make social audit by Gram Sabha mandatory for all rural development schemes.

(b),(c)&(d): Since Panchayati Raj is a State subject, State Governments/UT Administrations are required to prepare plans for capacity building and awareness generating programmes to make social audit successful and should issue detailed guidelines for social audit by Gram Sabhas according to their needs.

(e) & (f): Yes, Sir. The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have beenrequested to adopt the following 4-point strategy to enhance transparency and accountability in functioning of Panchayats :

(a) Awareness through print and electronic media and training/workshops for the elected representatives and functionaries of Panchayats;

(b) Participation of the village community in the preparation of Need Based Action Plan, its execution and monitoring;

(c) Transparency by displaying all the relevant information on a bill board regarding estimates, availability of funds and expenditure on the works taken up by the Panchayats, etc. and

(d) Social Audit by Gram Sabha.